

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03

H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /086 W

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R 271720Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1970

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JO, NS

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN AIRCRAFT LEASE

REF: PARAMARIBO 099

1. PRESS LEAKS IN BOTH SURINAM AND THE NETHERLANDS AND PRE-MATURE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SLM'S EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE HAVE BROKEN STORY OF SLM'S PROPOSAL TO LEASE ROYAL JORDANIAN INTERCONTINENTAL PASSENGER JET AND FORCED FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM GOS THAT SOMETHING OF SORT WAS IN WORKS. GOS OFFICIALS HAVE ADMITTED THAT LETTER OF INTENT DRAWN UP BUT EMPHASIZE THAT TOP-LEVEL DECISION NOT YET MADE. INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO JORDANIAN STORY HAS BEEN MIXED, WITH SOME APPREHENSION EXPRESSED ABOUT RELIABILITY OF ARAB PILOTS.

2. LEAKED STORY MAY PLAY PART IN CURRENT BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN SURINAM DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER-PRESIDENT ARRON AND GON OFFICIALS AT THE HAGUE. ONE OF MOST CONTENTIOUS AGENDA ITEMS IS LIKELY TO BE STATUS OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN

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SLM AND KLM AFTER SURINAM BECOMES INDEPENDENT (NOVEMBER 1975).

DESPITE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER BRUMA'S MUCH-PUBLICIZED CALL FOR CLEAN DIVORCE OF TWO NATIONAL AIRLINES, LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT NEW RELATIONSHIP, GIVING SLM GREATER EXPOSURE ON INTERNATIONAL ROUTES, COULD STILL BE POSSIBLE. JORDANIAN STORY OSTENSIBLY STRENGTHENS SURINAM SIDE BY DEMONSTRATING SLM'S ABILITY TO DISPENSE WITH KLM TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. HOWEVER, IF NEW RELATIONSHIP MATERIALIZES, SLM LINK-UP WITH ROYAL JORDANIAN BECOMES PROBLEMATICAL.
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